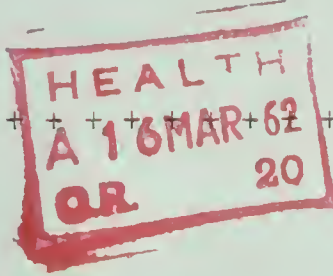


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CREDITON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1959.

Medical Officer of Health

N.F. SAWERS, M.B., Ch.B.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

L.W.BLAKE, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk

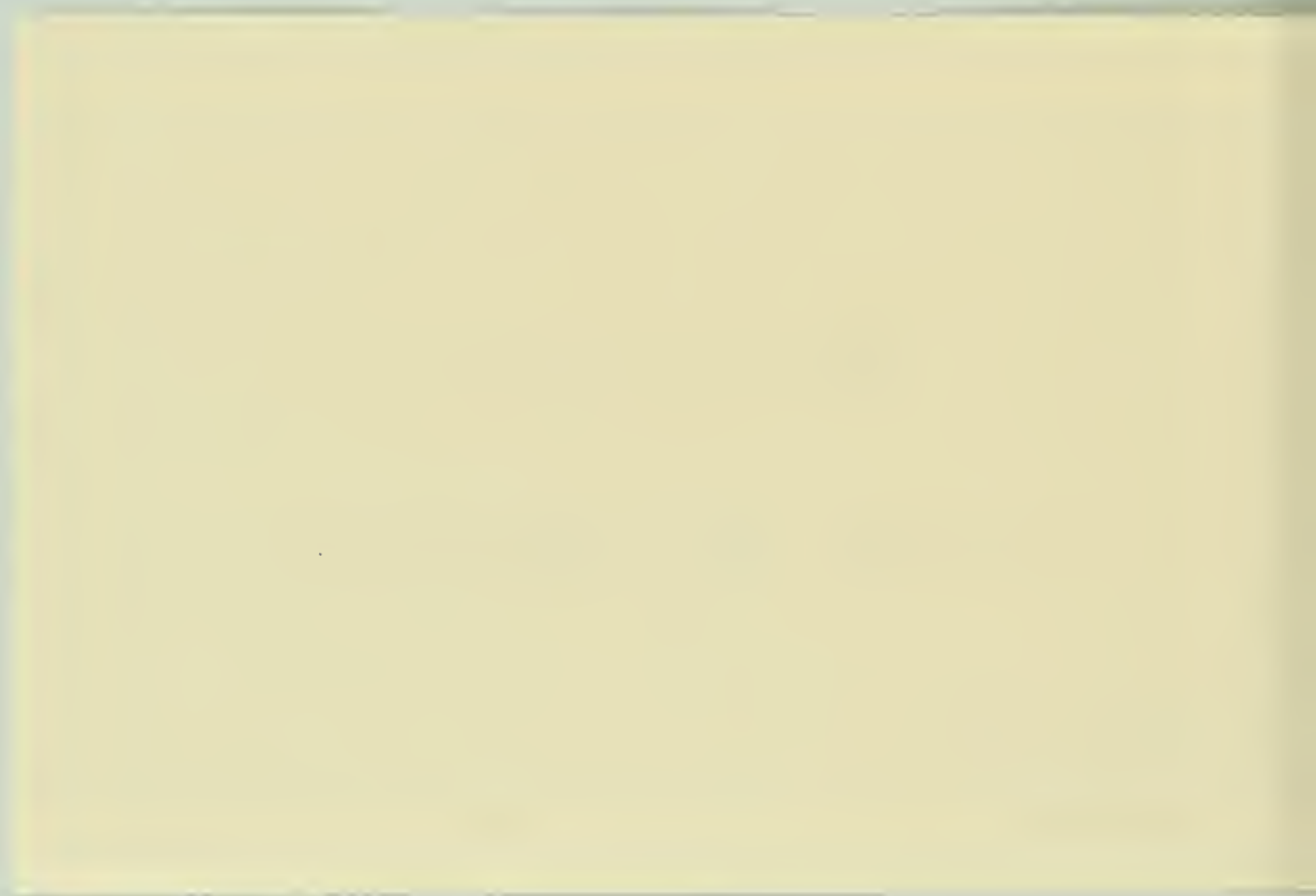
Mrs. P.M. GILL.



*With the Compliments  
of  
The Crediton Urban District Council.*

*Parliament Street,  
Crediton.*

Telephone 2283/84.



Mr. Chairman & Members of the  
Crediton Urban District Council.

I have the honour to present the report for 1959.

Much has already been said of the beautiful summer of this year and the Council and its staff are to be congratulated on providing an unrestricted water supply during the whole of the summer, a feat which very few other authorities in Devon can compete with.

The Council's Slum Clearance proposals have made commendable progress and the clearing of the empty houses from the sites must now be tackled.

Housing still remains a cause for concern as do the conditions in some of the Council's public conveniences. House rents on the recent housing estates seem to be out of proportion to the older houses considering the location, sizes of rooms etc. and this, in my opinion, is a matter which should receive the Council's early attention in view of the low incomes of some tenants. Private housing however shows the highest number completed for many years.

Finally I should like to thank Mr. Blake for his contribution to this report which has been produced in his department by Mrs. Gill.

I am, Madam & Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

N. F. SAWERS

Medical Officer of Health.



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## SECTION A

### 1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,096
Registrar General's estimate of population	..	...					4,240
No. of inhabited houses at the end of 1959 according to the rate book	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,464
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£58,539
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£240

### 2. VITAL STATISTICS

#### (a) Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
	50	42	92
Births illegitimate			
	Male	Female	Total
	7	1	8
Crude birth rate per 1,000 of population			14.39
Corrected birth rate per 1,000 of population			13.81
Live Birth rate for England & Wales in 1959			16.5

(b) Still Births.

There were no still births in 1959.

(c) Deaths.

(a) Death Rate.

Male	Female	Total
35	31	66

Average age of death 68 years.

Crude death rate per 1,000 of population 15.09

Corrected death rate per 1,000 of population 12.22

(b) Deaths from puerperal causes.

1959 - Nil

(c) Infantile Mortality.

(Deaths of infants under one year of age.)

1959 - 1

(d) Causes of death as follows:-

	Males	Females	Total
Cardio Vascular	22	20	42
Central Nervous System	-	-	-
Respiratory Diseases	2	2	4
Accident	3	-	3
Other diseases than Cancer	3	2	5
CANCER			
Lungs	5	-	5
Stomach	-	3	3
Bowel	-	1	1
Other Sites	-	3	3
Total	35	31	66



(c) Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.

Measles	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil
Scarlet Fever	Nil
Enteric Fever	Nil
Diarrhoea	Nil

SECTION B

3. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

a. Nursing Service.

A resident District Nurse employed by the Devon County Council adequately provides this service.

b. Care of Mothers and Young Children.

These are visited at home by a Devon County Council Health Visitor.

c. Maternity & Child Welfare Services.

The District Nurse Midwife working in co-operation with the General Practitioners provide the basis for ante-natal care, confinement and post-natal care. In addition Home Helps are provided by the Devon County Council in appropriate cases.

In cases where home conditions are unsuitable confinement arrangements are made for the mother to go to Redhills Hospital, Exeter.

Child Welfare and Maternity Clinics are held at Newcombes weekly and during 1959 attendance were as follows:-

Mothers	Children	Total
1680	2481	4161

The children were as follows:-

Infants	Toddlers	Children
1105	598	778

Vaccinations, diphtheria and poliomyelitis immunisations are available at this Clinic but a fuller use could be made of the service.

d. Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases.

There are no centres in Crediton for these diseases. Cases of Tuberculosis are seen by the Tuberculosis Officer at Ivybank, Exeter and he then decides whether they are nursed at home or sent to Hawkmoor Sanatorium.

e. Infectious Diseases.

These are nursed at home and if the Doctor in attendance considers they should be transferred to hospital they are removed to Whipton Isolation Hospital.

f. Ambulances.

The Devon County Council control the ambulance service and at present one ambulance is station in Crediton and run by the Crediton Branch of the Red Cross.

g. Laboratory Works.

All laboratory examinations required are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter.

## SECTION C

### 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

#### a. Sewerage.

During the year, after considering a report by the Surveyor regarding the lack of sewage treatment at Fordton and the very poor and inadequate works at Lords Meadow, the Council decided to instruct their Consulting Engineers, Messrs. Harvey, McGill & Hayes to proceed with a scheme to cover all the town.

The Surveyor was instructed to prepare a scheme for extending a sewer to provide for a site at Okefield on which it was proposed to erect 63 dwellings.

#### b. Water.

The Council's water undertaking proved to be one of the few in Devon capable of standing up to the extremely dry summer. Indeed it is with great pleasure that I can state that no restrictions whatever were brought into force and at no time during the year was any difficulty found in supplying the population with its water needs.

During the year the Council supplied 89,020,000 galls. of water, that is about 244,000 galls. per day.

Only two properties in the District do not have a piped supply of water and one of these could now be supplied if requested at very little cost.

Chlorination of both the Council's supplies, Uton and Walson, continues and free chlorine is available in the water at all times.

c. Public Conveniences.

The conveniences provided by the Council do not reach a very high standard and still leave much to be desired.

It is felt that the time will soon come to close the Union Road conveniences as these are very small and do not lend themselves to extension or modernisation.

The Market Street conveniences are extensively used in the summer months and will have to be extended soon to meet the needs of coach parties visiting the town and it should be borne in mind if at any time the Car Park is extended that the extension and modernisation of these conveniences is a necessity.

The Green conveniences are quite new and although not of a high standard do meet the needs of the area and are the best the Council have yet provided.

d. Refuse Disposal and Collection.

The collection of refuse was speeded up during the year with the Council acquiring a new 12 cub.yd. Karrier Gamecock lorry. This allows for house refuse to be collected in two days and trade refuse in a further half day.

The Council's tip however leaves much to be desired and has in the past been allowed to get out of control with the result that no controlled tipping in any form can be carried out. The face of the tip is now about 50 feet high and some very serious thinking will have to be done and a considerable amount of money spent in the near future to prevent this becoming a permanent eyesore.

The main face was covered down during the year and this helped to disguise the tip and reduced flies to the minimum.

e. Rodent Control.

During the year treatments were carried out as follows:-

<u>Properties</u>		<u>Hours</u>	<u>Visits</u>
Private	14	17	38
Business	2	4	3
Council	1	3	2

Constant supervision was kept during the year, except for one outbreak in an area of four houses the rodent population seemed to be almost completely wiped out.

f. Sanitary Inspections.

(a) Summary of Visits.

Council Properties	145
Private Houses	131
Food Premises	25
Slaughterhouse	142
Other Premises	81

(b) Notices Served.

Housing Acts.

Time & Place Notices	4 properties
Demolition Orders	1 property
Closing Orders	1 property
Undertakings	4 properties

Public Health Acts. Nil

Informal Notices 3

Disinfestations.

During the year no disinfestations were carried out.



## SECTION D

### 5. HOUSING.

#### General Housing.

Major building on Council Estates came to an end at the beginning of this year with the completion of the final three houses on the Butt Parks Estate.

The Council's policy of building one-bedroom accommodation progressed steadily during the year with the completion of the Stanbury Court site.

Private housing was mainly on Waresfoot Estate but by the end of the year the Okefield Estate was being started.

Houses Completed:	Council	16 (one bedroom type)
		3 (two bedroom type)
	Private	14

Future housing policy was decided as one bedroom flats at Church Street and Baptist Chapel Court and then the redevelopment of the Bowden Hill area.

#### Slum Clearance.

As a result of the completion of Stanbury Court most of the families in houses in Clearance Areas have been rehoused, the numbers being 50 persons in 24 families.

The position on Clearance Areas at the end of the year was as follows:-

No. 5 (Bowden Hill & Park Street) Clearance Area	5 houses demolished
No. 6 (Gregory's Court) Clearance Area	5 houses to be demolished
No. 7 (Mill Street) Clearance Area	4 houses demolished 8 houses to be demolished

No. 8 (Eaton Place & Bank Place) Clearance Area.	2 houses demolished. 5 houses to be demolis
No. 9 (Fountain Court) Clearance Area.	4 houses to be demolis
No. 10 (UnderhillsPlace) Clearance Area.	4 houses to be demolis
No. 11 (St. Saviour's Court) Clearance Area.	6 houses to be demolis
No. 12 (Cockwell) Clearance Area.	4 houses demolished. 2 houses to be demolis
No. 13 (Baptist Chapel Court) Clearance Area.	6 houses demolished.
No. 14 (Cockles Lane) Clearance Area.	4 houses demolished.
No. 15 (Church Street) Clearance Area.	6 houses to be demolis
No. 16 (Buckingham Place) Clearance Area.	2 houses to be demolis
No. 17 (Dean Street) Clearance Area.	1 house occupied. 3 houses empty.
No. 18 (Mann's Place) Clearance Area.	2 houses to be demolis
No. 19 (Exeter Road) Clearance Area.	3 houses to be demolis
No. 20 (St. Lawrence Terrace) Clearance Area.	2 houses occupied. 9 houses empty.

This shows excellent progress on rehousing as of the 31st March 1954 87 houses included in Clearance Areas only three are now occupied. Demolition however is rather slow with 25 houses only cleared.

The chalets at Newcombes continued to be progressively closed and at the end of the year 5 units remained occupied.

Families rehoused from Clearance Areas	18
Families rehoused from individual unfit houses	3

## Housing List.

At the end of 1959 the position was as follows:-

No. on Council Housing Waiting List 57

These families required accommodation as follows:-

One bedroom	24
Two bedroom	18
Three bedroom	12
Larger	3

## Improvement Grants.

One application for an Improvement Grant was received. A grant of 25% was made amounting to £74.10.0.

## Standard Grants.

5 applications were received for Standard Grants, 1 of these being refused.

The 3 contracts completed provided 3 baths, 3 hot water supplies, 3 larders, 3 wash-hand basins and 1 W.C. and a total of £298. 6. 11 was paid in Grants.

## Housing Subsidies Act, 1956.

During the year the necessary inspections were made to comply with the above Act and 24 families were rehoused.

## Moveable Dwellings.

There are five sites on which caravans are sited and in four cases these are restricted both by Planning and Public Health to periods from one to three years.

The sites are:-

(a) Gloncreedy, Mill Street.

3 caravans for permanent residents.



(b) High Street (Moores)

Site for 3 caravans. Only 2 being stationed on the site for the main part of the year.

(c) High Street (Mitchell).

1 caravan for permanent residents.

(d) Park Cottage.

1 caravan for permanent residents.

(e) Mill Street - Fairpark.

This site is used for 2 permanent caravans with Showman's accommodation coming in during the close season for Funfairs.

SECTION E

6. FOOD AND DRUGS.

During the year the following food was voluntarily surrendered for condemnation:-

1 leg Pork weight 13 lbs.  
52 tins (various)  
14 lbs. Golden Cutlets.

Ice Cream.

3 new registrations were made for the sale of ice-cream making a total of 20 premises on the Register.

There are no manufacturers in the district.

Food Hygiene Regulations.

The following food premises are situated in the District:-

Grocers	4
Butchers	7
Bakers	4
Fishmongers	2
Cafe's	3
Greengrocers	3
Public Houses	11
General Stores	20

The standards have been improved since these Regulations and are still on the upward trend.

## Milk & Dairies.

The following licences were operating during the year:-

2 Dealer's Licences for Pasteurised Milk.

2 Dealer's Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Premises in the District are satisfactory.

## Slaughter of Animals.

During the year one private Slaughterhouse Licence was renewed.

The following carcasses and offal were inspected:-

	1959	1958	1957
Cattle	239	204	245
Calves	-	5	6
Sheep & Lambs	390	235	132
Pigs	415	203	206

For details of condemnations see Appendix 1.

## SECTION F

### 7. FACTORIES.

During the year 41 visits were made to factories, there being 45 on the Register.

In addition there were 11 outworkers in the District employed as follows:-

Work on flare parachutes	5
Knitting	1
Gloves	5

SECTION G

7. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notified Infectious Diseases.

No cases of infectious diseases were notified.



Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned.  
In Whole or in Part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	239	Nil	Nil	390	415	Nil
Number Inspected	239	Nil	Nil	390	415	Nil
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole Carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	14	Nil	Nil	Nil	6	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	5.82	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.45	Nil'
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.20	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil





